

Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd
Minutes of Board Meeting 20 August 2004

Present: N. Black, Graeme Charles, David Dinning and David Griffiths
Apology: Tony O'Shea

1. Minutes.

That the minutes of the board meeting of 16 June 2004 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

2. Paul Fitzgerald

Paul Fitzgerald addressed the meeting on the activities of ACCORD and, in particular its interest in working with State Federations.

Web site design – the services of ACCORD were offered without charge for re-designing the australia.coop web site.

Co-operative case studies – ACCORD is proposing to pay each State Federation up to \$20,000 each for the development of co-operative case studies

Co-operative education – ACCORD would be willing to work in partnership with CFV, and other Federations, in the provision of co-operative education building on the CFV partnership with the UK Co-operative College.

Membership commitment indices – ACCORD is developing an indices for credit unions and believed that this could be used by the whole movement.

It was noted that ACCORD would write to CFV with the basis of a formal partnership arrangement – outlining ACCORD's intentions and ideas.

3. Co-operative Education

Graeme Charles' and Co-operative College email response was emailed to directors on 15 August 2004. The Chairman of the Co-operative College, Stephen Yeo, is visiting Australia in September 2004 and has proposed a meeting on 10 September 2004. Graeme Charles will finalise with available directors invited to attend.

It was noted that the Co-operative College had approved making available the CD Rom, A Different Kind of Business, to co-operatives on a pilot basis and this would be provided to the Warrnambool Co-operative Society Limited and the Terang Co-operative Society Limited as negotiated by Neil Black.

The Secretary would copy and distribute the CD Rom to directors with the computer specifications and a feedback form.

It was noted that Graeme Charles also needed to clarify with the Co-operative College the CD expiry date and accreditation of its courses – whether any accreditation in the UK could apply to Australian co-operators or whether separate Australian accreditation was necessary. Graeme Charles would also discuss with the Co-operative College CFV becoming the formal partner or agent in Australia.

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The email from Garry Oliver, regarding co-operation between CFV and AICUD was welcomed and it was agreed to continue discussions with on the basis of an inclusive relationship that included ACCORD and the UK Co-operative College. It was noted that AICUD was willing to make courses and presenters available that could be delivered as stand-alone or joint courses.

It was agreed that Graeme Charles would contact Garry Oliver and, in particular, clarify any accreditation that was attached to AICUD courses.

4. Audit

That the Statement of Receipts & Expenditures for the year ended 30 June 2004 prepared by Graeme Charles be endorsed and forwarded to the auditor with supporting documentation.

Graeme Charles also said that he would talk to the auditor about the cost of the auditor on the basis that it should cost less.

5. AGM

It was agreed that the AGM would be at 11.30 am on 28 October 2004 and that the Urban Camp would again be asked if the AGM could be held at the Camp.

That in issuing the notice for the AGM the Secretary will determine which directors are retiring.

6. Cost Cutting

The board discussed the following cost cutting measures proposed by the Secretary:

1. That I be paid one more honorium for September but that any further honoriums be suspended.
2. That no further expenses be incurred by the Secretary except for a mail out for the AGM.
3. That Telstra be advised next week to cancel the fax (97856542) and telephone (97856704) services so that we do not continue to incur costs. The telephone and fax services are rarely used. Most 'correspondence' is via email.
4. Cancellation of the telephone service will, of course mean, that we no longer have access to email. I am currently paying for ADSL access at \$89.95. CFV is not paying for this currently. Cancellation of 97856074 will mean that the ADSL service will no longer work. I would have to pay approximately \$110 for the activation of our household line. I would only consider this.
5. I will cancel any planned meetings with co-operatives as this would incur expenses that I might not be able to subsequently claim. While the meetings are necessary, I decline to pay for them.
7. australia.coop will be able to continue. This is independent of an ISP and access to email. Hosting fee has been paid for 12 months and the domain name

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has been registered for a further three years. I suggest that the previous recommendation circulated be adopted so that australia.coop can be quarantined.

The board adopted a proposed budget up to end of January 2004. It was noted that the key elements for achieving this budget would be suspending the Sec Hon by 50% for October – January, minimising outgoing faxes and telephone calls and minimising office expenditure. It was also agreed that the Secretary would review the continuation of the separate fax line and make a recommendation to the next meeting.

That the Secretary be authorized to cancel the fax and telephone services at discretion.

It was also noted that at this point the Secretary was paying for ISP access and that CFV was not contributing to this cost whereas this was previously included in the \$160 monthly web hosting fee of Impaq.

7. Consumer Affairs

It was noted that the Director of Consumer Affairs has agreed to a meeting with CFV to discuss 2004-05 funding but that a time and date had yet to be established.

Graeme Charles said that he would contact the Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria next week to arrange a meeting to finalise the issue of funding for 2004-05.

8. Transfer to NetC

The Secretary reported that the transfer to NetC was successful – later than planned but within the 20 July 2004 deadline established by the Secretary. It was noted that since the change of hosting visits to australia.coop have increased beyond the normal incremental increase.

Copies of updated statistics for the period 7 January 2003 to 31 July 2004 were emailed to directors on 1 August 2004 and updated statistics for the period 7 January 2003 – 14 August 2004 were emailed to directors on 14 August 2004.

9. Continuing australia.coop

The argument by the Secretary on the continuation of australia.coop was noted. A decision on the recommendation of the Secretary that the board agree to delegate the operational management of australia.coop to David Griffiths and Co-operative Energy Ltd with the continuation of the partnership development arrangement with NetC was deferred.

10, IAS 32

The CFV has had a critical exchange of letters with the AASB on the impact of IAS 32 on co-operatives. A submission was made to the AASB on the 1 August 2004 and a response was received dated 5 August 2004 – a quick and detailed response. A copy of the AASB letter of 5 August 2004 was emailed to directors on 6 August 2004. Copies were also emailed to Federations in SA, WA and NSW and to Tim Bunning. Earlier a copy of the NZCA submission on IAS 32 was emailed to directors on 28 July 2004. Subsequently, the NZCA gave permission for their submission to be uploaded to australia.coop. The NZCA Co-operative News of June/July 2004 which led with a story of IAS 32 was emailed to directors on 15 July 2004. IAS 32 material from the ICA was circulated to directors and the other Federations in November 2003. The other Federations did not take up the option of making IAS 32 a CCA issue. CFV directors did not respond either. The International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee has prepared a paper on IAS 32: IFRIC Draft Interpretation D8 – Members' Shares in Co-operative Entities. Comments on this are to be received by 13 September 2004. This Draft Interpretation was emailed to directors on 12 August 2004.

The CFNSW has recently established a working party. It was noted that as a result of their participation ACCORD has prepared a submission on the IFRIC D8 submitted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. This was emailed to directors on 14 August 2004.

11. Files and Resources

It was noted that the paper was emailed to directors on 14 August 2004. The paper was noted.

12. Library

The Secretary reported that he was preparing a list of CFV library publications. He noted that there were very few publications. Known publications missing included those donated by Co-operative Energy Ltd, Des Ryan and the Registry of Co-operatives.

13. Winding-Up

It was noted that a paper emailed to directors on 14 August 2004. There was no decision.

14. Member meetings

The Secretary reported that the following co-operatives had agreed to individual meetings with the Secretary – Gippsland Herd Improvement Co-operative, South

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East Housing Co-operative and Urban Camp Co-operative. Other co-operatives were to be approached.

15. Why co-operation?

The briefing document discussed and two basic criticisms were made. First, that it has two different audiences - member co-operative and others. Second, it is not sufficiently practical and pointed - if you don't support CFV it will not be around much longer and what impact will this have.

It was agreed to forward Why co-operation? to Chris Greenwood with an invitation for comment.

Next Meeting: 10:30 am, 22 September 2004.

Prepared: David Griffiths, 23 August 2004

Approved: Graeme Charles 24 August 2004

David Griffiths
Secretary